Dear Parents/Guardians,

5th Grade Social Studies is excited to inform you that in lieu of a summative test for our current unit, students will be completing a **summative project** (summative grades are 60%). During this project, students will be demonstrating knowledge about the geography and peoples of ancient Mesoamerica while honing the ever important skill of website building.

Students will be completing the majority of the website building in class in order to ensure that students have as much access to the computers as possible. However, they will need to do some preparation work at home. Students will be provided with template worksheets that they will need to complete at home in order to create their websites and use class time as effectively as possible.

To ensure student success, a rubric will be provided to students from the beginning of the project. Additionally, students will have checkpoints throughout the entirety of the project where students will be turning in parts of their project and graded accordingly. **The sum of the checkpoints will be the final grade for the project.**

In order to avoid any stress over access to the internet, I would like to remind parents and students of the availability of internet access outside of class time. Students are encouraged to advocate for themselves if they need extra time on the computer at school. Options are as follows:

- **The Public Library**
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>150 N. Ottawa St. Joliet, IL 60432</td>
<td>(815) 740-2660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3395 Black Road Joliet, IL 60431</td>
<td>(815) 740-2660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>650 Deerwood Dr. Shorewood, IL 60404</td>
<td>(815) 725-1715</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **ASAP** - An after school program where students have the opportunity work for an hour and a half at school. Students will ride the activity bus home, or need to be picked up by a parent/guardian. Teachers will confirm these things with parents before signing students up.

  **If students fail to turn in more than one of their checkpoints on time, these resources will be used to help them to keep up. If students come to class **twice** with incomplete/late work, they will be given an alternate paper version of the project in place of creating their own website.**

I am very excited to help your child learn through this project, and cannot wait to get started. Please watch for checkpoints in student planners, and on my website. The assignment and grading rubric will be available on my website. Please review both sides of this letter with your child and return it signed.

Sincerely,
Mr. Kath (5-Blue)

---

**Student Nombre**: ____________________________________________________________________________

**Parent Signature**: _____________________________________________
# Chapter 6: Mesoamerican Civilizations Summative Project

## Page 5

### Home
- Includes a picture with a caption that represents Mesoamerican geography.
- Includes a picture with a caption that represents Olmec/Maya/Mexica/Celtics.

### Geography
- Contains an accurate, detailed summary of Mesoamerica with at least 5 sentences. Most of the summary is supported with strong details.
- Contains a map of Mesoamerica with a caption (e.g., "site names are shown in blue").
- Contains an accurate, detailed summary of Mesoamerica in the Gazetteer section of the textbook.
- Lists/correctly names AND describes 4 physical features of Mesoamerica using the Gazetteer section of the textbook.

### Timeline
- Accurately identifies 12 significant dates AND events between 1200 BCE and A.D. 1200.
- Lists ALL 12 events in sequential order.

### Vocabulary
- Correctly defines 25 vocabulary words (14 given and 11 you choose that are not from Chapter 6).
- Lists ALL 35 words in alphabetical order (e.g., A, B, C, D, E, F, etc.).
- Number the vocabulary words (1-10).

### Culture
- Explains why you chose the topic.
- Contains an accurate, well-written, detailed summary of a Mesoamerican topic of your choice using multiple sentences (AV)
- Explains why the culture is significant.
- Includes a picture with a caption that represents your chosen topic.

### Resources/Links
- Accurately identifies 2 book resources and/or website resources that pertain to the topic.
- Includes a brief description for EACH of the 3 resources.

### Website Design
- Website layout is organized and content is presented in a clear manner.
- Use of graphics and color is appropriate for the reader.
- Website layout is somewhat disorganized and the content is presented in an unclear manner.
- Use of graphics and color is somewhat appropriate for the reader.

---

### Summary

- Page contains at least one sentence about Mesoamerica with at least one detail.
- Page contains at least one labeled/captioned picture that pertains to a lesson.
- Page contains provided main idea and 3 descriptions about Mesoamerica, including its physical features.
- Page contains correctly identifies 3 significant dates AND events between 1200 BCE and A.D. 1200 in sequential order.

---

### Dates

*Dates are subject to change. Please check for updates in your child's planner AND our 5-Blue calendar @ rkath.weebly.com*
Chapter 6: Mesoamerican Civilizations

Mesoamerican Civilizations

Lesson 1 (p. 162 – 165)

Lesson 2 (p. 168 – 173)

Lesson 3 (p. 174 – 181)
Mesoamerican Civilizations

**LESSON 1: Geography of Mesoamerica**
- Mesoamerica is a land of rugged mountains, plateaus, volcanoes, and highlands.
- Coastal lands along the Gulf of Mexico and Pacific Ocean vary from tropical rain forests, grasslands, rivers, swamps, and pine forests to highlands and mountains.
- Mesoamericans had an advanced form of agriculture, growing crops such as beans, maize (corn), chili peppers, and squash.
- Many Mesoamerican cities contained temple-pyramids and large, public works of art such as stone monuments.
- Mesoamerican used their knowledge of astronomy to develop highly accurate calendars.

**LESSON 2: The Olmec and the Maya**
- The first great civilization of Mesoamerica was the Olmec, believed to have directly influenced all Mesoamerican civilizations that followed.
- Most famous for their giant sculptures made of basalt, the Olmec also developed a number system, a calendar, and a form of writing.
- The Mayan civilization was complex yet similar to the Olmec in many ways. It was a theocracy, the people grew crops, and they had a writing system.
- The Maya used their mathematical skills to develop several different calendars.
- The Mayans created a more complex system of writing which was composed of various signs and symbols.
- Mayan families: Men farmed, hunted, and fished. Women and older girls made clothing, supplied water and firewood, cared for small children, and did housekeeping chores. Young children learned about farming and chores but spent much of their time playing.

**LESSON 3: The Aztecs**
- The Mexica (Aztecs) settled on two swampy islands where they built the great city of Tenochtitlan.
- Religion influenced every aspect of life in the Aztec culture. Quetzalcoatl was the god of creation which influenced the wind, rain, and clouds.
- The Aztecs built a great empire in Mesoamerica that was influenced by the Olmec and Maya.
- The Aztecs became a large empire through warfare. The emperors used the gold they collected from newly conquered city-states.
- Moctezuma II, the last emperor of the Aztec Empire, was conquered by the Spaniards and their leader, Hernández Cortés.
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<th>PAGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
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</table>

### Chapter 6: Mesoamerican Civilizations

#### Summative Project Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Page contains an accurate, well-written, detailed summary of Mesoamerica:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] includes a picture with a caption that represents Geography.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Lesson 1: Sentence about the Geography.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Lesson 2: Sentence about the Olmec/Maya.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Lesson 3: Sentence about the Aztecs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- [ ] includes a picture with a caption that represents Geography. |
- [ ] includes a picture with a caption that represents Olmec/Maya. |
- [ ] includes a picture with a caption that represents Aztecs. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GEOGRAPHY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Page contains a map of Mesoamerica with a caption.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Contains an accurate/detailed sentence about the location of Mesoamerica using the Gazetteer section of the textbook.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] LISTS/Correctly names AND describes 4 physical features of Mesoamerica using the Gazetteer section of the textbook.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Page accurately identifies 12 significant dates AND events between 1200 B.C. to A.D. 1521 (8 given and 4 other world events of your choice that are NOT from Chapter 6).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] LISTS ALL 12 events in sequential order from first to last (1200 B.C. to A.D. 1521).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOCABULARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Page correctly defines 15 vocabulary words (14 given and 1 word of your choice that is from Chapter 6 and is NOT a vocabulary word, person, or place -- NOT a highlighted yellow word from the textbook).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] LISTS ALL 15 words in alphabetical order just like they are found in your glossary or a dictionary (a, b, c, d, e, f, ...).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Number the vocabulary words (#1 - 15).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Page contains an accurate summary of Mesoamerica with at least 4 sentences. Most of the summary is supported with strong details. Page contains 3 labeled/captioned pictures that pertain to the content of each lesson. Page contains an accurate summary of Mesoamerica with at least 3 sentences. Some of the summary is supported with details. Page contains at least 3 labeled/captioned pictures that pertain to the content of these two lessons. Page contains at least one sentence about Mesoamerica with few details; contains several spelling/grammatical errors OR Page contains 1 picture that pertains to one of the lessons. Page contains provided map, an accurate description of Mesoamerica, and describes 5 physical features of Mesoamerica. Page contains provided map and 2 descriptions (about Mesoamerica or its physical features) OR Page contains provided map and 3 descriptions (about Mesoamerica or its physical features). OR Contains an accurate description of Mesoamerica. OR Correctly identifies and describes 1 physical feature of Mesoamerica. OR Page accurately identifies 3-5 significant dates AND events from 1200 B.C. to A.D. 1521 in sequential order from first to last. Page accurately identifies 5-11 significant dates AND events from 1200 B.C. to A.D. 1521 in sequential order from first to last. Page accurately identifies 8 significant dates AND events from 1200 B.C. to A.D. 1521 in sequential order from first to last. Page accurately identifies 3-5 significant dates AND events from 1200 B.C. to A.D. 1521. Page not completed. Page not completed. Page not completed. Page not completed. Page not completed.
**Overall Grade:** _____ /35 = _____%

**Additional Teacher Comments:** You will be given about 70+ min per class session over a 3 week period to work on this assignment. If you are unable to complete checkpoints in class, you will need to work on it at home, visit your local library, ask to come in for lunch, etc. Remember to aim for “greatness” not “okness”! You can achieve that A if you are willing to work hard.
To access your weebly account go to: http://students.weebly.com or use the weebly app.

The username is similar to your Google account (firstname–lastname). The password is your birthday – 8 digits – (daymonthyear). Teacher will notify you when you account is active. Please do not attempt to sign up until then.

★Refer to the rubric throughout the project! See an example here: 5blue-example.weebly.com

I. PAGE: Refer to rubric. This will be the first page visitors will see when viewing your website. You will need to write a well written, DETAILED summary about Mesoamerica. Look over the "Key Concepts" of this packet, the "Why We Remember" on p. 161 of your textbook and the "Focus on the Main Idea" on p. 162, 168, and 174 of your textbook for assistance. You must use your own words. You can also use the ideas listed below to help guide your written summary. Please do no plagerise from the textbook.

Lesson 1: Geography of Mesoamerica (choose one and focus on the main idea)
  - Describe the location of Mesoamerica.
  - List and describe major physical features of Mesoamerica.
  - Name three important crops that Mesoamericans grew.
  - Explain how the early people of Mesoamerica used the natural resources of the environment.
  - Describe the influences of the climate and landscape on the Mesoamerican peoples.

Lesson 2: The Olmec and the Maya (choose one and focus on the main idea)
  - Compare and contrast the Olmec and Mayan civilizations.
  - Explain why the Olmec is called a "Mother Civilization."
  - Explain why cenotes were important to the Maya.
  - Explain how the Olmec and Mayan civilizations were organized.
  - Explain why the Olmec people might be considered ancestors of the Maya.
  - Describe significant contributions/accomplishments of the Olmec and the Maya.

Lesson 3: The Aztecs (choose one and focus on the main idea)
  - Explain how the Aztec Empire developed over time.
  - Locate and describe Tenochtitlan.
  - Explain how the Aztecs used alliances to build their empire.
  - Describe significant contributions/accomplishments made by the Aztec Empire.
  - Explain why and how the Aztec Empire fell.
Write your DETAILED summary about Mesoamerica here:

*These will go on your "home" page of your website and will need to include an Introduction sentence, Geography sentence(s), Olmec sentence(s), Maya sentence(s), and Aztec sentence(s)*

- Write your Introduction sentence (introduce your topic / hook the reader) here:

- Write your Lesson 1 sentence about the “Geography” of Mesoamerica here:

- Write your Lesson 2 sentence(s) about the “Olmec” and/or “Maya” here:

- Write your Lesson 3 sentence about the “Aztecs” here:

*CHECK OUT PAGE 3 OF THIS PACKET FOR IDEAS TO WRITE ABOUT*
II. **GEOGRAPHY**

**PAGE:** Refer to rubric. Using your textbook, complete the following statements below using complete sentences. The map below will be located on Mr. Kath’s website for you to use on your website. It’s located in the “homework section.”

![Map of Mesoamerica]

Describe the location of **Mesoamerica.** *Use the Gazetteer on p. R41 – R49 in the back of your textbook*

Mesoamerica is ...

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

List/name AND describe at least 4 major physical features of Mesoamerica. (Use the Places on p. 162/174 of your textbook and select four of the following):

- Sierra Madre Oriental
- Sierra Madre Occidental
- Gulf of Mexico
- Yucatan Peninsula
- Central Plateau
- Plateau of Mexico
- Valley of Mexico
- Lake Texcoco
- Central America Volcanic Arc
- Valley of Oaxaca
- Sierra Madre del Sur
- Highlands of Mesoamerica
- Pacaya Volcano
- Lake Yojoa
- Belize Barrier Reef

*Use the Gazetteer in the back of your textbook or other given resources to find their descriptions*
III. **PAGE**: Refer to rubric. Fill in the missing information using page 24 of your textbook or use page 10 of your in-class activity folder. This paragraph below is a review from Chapter 1 and does NOT need to be included on your website.

The letters *B.C.* stand for ________________ ________________. Sometimes these dates are labeled as *B.C.E.* which stands for "_______________ the ________________ ________________.”

The letters *A.D.* stand for the latin words ________________ ________________ which means “______ ______ _____ ______ ______ _______.” Sometimes these dates are labeled as *C.E.* which stands for ________________ ________________.

Some events take place at a general time. We then use the letter *c.* which stands for the *Latin term* ________________ which means “__________________.”

*Fill in the major Mesoamerican events using the timelines on pages 168, 173, 174, and/or 180 of your textbook. The following 8 specific dates/events are already listed in sequential order!*

1200 B.C. __________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

300 B.C. __________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

A.D. 250 __________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

A.D. 900 __________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________
Find **FOUR** other major world events, **NOT mentioned in Chapter 6 of your textbook**, that were taking place between 1200 B.C. – A.D. 1521. Remember, this was also the Age of European Exploration. Label ALL of your dates below either B.C. or A.D. On your website these dates/events will need to be placed in sequential order between the 8 events that were already given to you in order above.

(*Hint: There is a timeline located in the back of your textbook on p. R31-R36; if there is no B.C. or A.D. written by the date, it is safe to assume it is A.D. It’s currently A.D. 2018 but do we say it that way today?).

- ________________________________
- ________________________________
- ________________________________
- ________________________________
- ________________________________
- ________________________________
- ________________________________
- ________________________________
IV. VOCABULARY PAGE: Refer to rubric. Using your textbook glossary (p. R58 – R68), write the definition for the following terms. You will need to be able to alphabetize ALL 15 of these words/definitions on your website as you would see them in your glossary or a dictionary.

archaeologist: ________________________________

agriculture: ________________________________

migrate: ________________________________

plateau: ________________________________

polytheism: ________________________________

peninsula: ________________________________

cenote: ________________________________

theocracy: ________________________________

aqueduct: ________________________________
Chapter 6: Mesoamerican Civilizations

Summative Project

**codex:**
#

**mercenary:**
#

**chinampa:**
#

**causeway:**
#

**alliance:**
#

Include a word you found in the textbook that you didn't understand from Chapter 6. It can NOT be a vocabulary word highlighted above or a person/place. Write it's definition using a dictionary or a search. Please provide the page number where you discovered your word in Chapter 6.

_____________________________ (p. _______): ________________________________
#

_____________________________

_____________________________

*On your website this word and definition will need to be placed in alphabetical order between the 14 words/definitions that were already given to you out of order above. I would suggest numbering all 15 words prior to typing them onto your website. See agriculture (#1) which is where you should begin.*
I would like to know more about...

Need some suggestions? Here you go...

Food, Farming, Homes, Traditional Clothing, Religious Beliefs of the ancient people of Mexico or Central America, Aztec civilization, Maya civilization, Olmec civilization, Toltec civilization, Lucha Libre, Charreada/Charrería, Mexican Art (or choose an artist like Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, David Alfaro Siquieros), Cantinflas, Haciendas, Holidays (Día de los Muertos, Independence Day, Cinco de Mayo, Las Posadas), Music, Dance, Legends and Stories from Mexico (like the Chupacabra), Our Lady of Guadalupe and Juan Diego (story), movies and TV shows (El Chavo del Ocho, etc.), Sports (fútbol, lucha libre wrestling, ulama, baseball, basketball, etc.)... and many more possibilities...

Now, fill out the KWL chart.

The "K" section is a place for you to list everything you already "know" about your topic.

The "W" section is a place for you to list everything you "want to learn" about your topic. (at least 5 ?s)

Leave the "L" section blank until you complete your research. I will ask you to finish it at the end of our unit once you have had time to research your chosen topic using at least 2 resources other than your textbook. Add these resources to your "Resources/Links" page of this template packet as you use them. At that time, you should be able to answer all of your "W" section questions. This is what you "learned." You should be able to explain the significance of your chosen topic and why it is important to their culture. Please share and write away...

I chose this topic because...

*Write everything you know about this topic here:
1. Why is this topic important/significant to the culture of Mesoamerica?

2.

3.

4.

5.

Answer to #1. above:

Answer to #2. above:

Answer to #3. above:

Answer to #4. above:

Answer to #5. above:

Do you have more information or cool stuff? Continue on a piece of loose leaf.
VI. RESOURCES/LINKS: Refer to rubric. Provide at least 2 more resources (books) and/or websites that pertain to content of the chapter. Search for books and websites that you find interesting and think others would like too. Your resources/websites should include a brief description like the example below. ... the example is your textbook by the way. You should type the textbook resource as listed below on the first four pages of your website (Home – Vocabulary). While you are researching your chosen topic, you will use additional resources and will type all of these remaining resources on your Culture page. At the bottom of your Home Page please type the following, "All images were found on Google. I do not own the rights to any images on this site!" This will cover copyright laws. *NO Wikipedia or ASK!!! ...These are not great resources for a research project. Look for URLs with a domain that ends in .edu, .gov, .ac.uk, .co.uk OR .org for best results.

EX #1

– Explore early civilizations and the modern world in this student-friendly world history textbook.

EX #2

– BrainPOP content includes kid-friendly movies, quizzes and games for various subjects such as social studies.

*URL Address OR Title of Book:

*Name of Website OR Author of Book:

*Brief Description:

*URL Address OR Title of Book:

*Name of Website OR Author of Book:

*Brief Description:

*URL Address OR Title of Book:

*Name of Website OR Author of Book:

*Brief Description:

...consequences exist

I hope that you use this project as a fun opportunity to learn more about a topic of interest to you. However, if you are clearly not keeping up with the research (two strikes), you will be removed from the project and given another assignment to complete... one that is not your own choosing.
Make the most of your opportunities here at school and come to class prepared!
Reflection: Complete the following using specific details and complete sentences.

1. Using your rubric, grade your effort at meeting the project’s requirements (circle):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home</th>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
<th>Culture</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Web Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 4 3 2 1 0</td>
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<td>5 4 3 2 1 0</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total _____ / 35

2. What information about Mesoamerica did I learn that was new to me? Please be VERY specific & DETAILED.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

3. Was completing the project easy OR difficult for me? Why? Please be VERY specific with the reason.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

4. Would I recommend doing this project again? Why OR why not? Please be VERY specific with the reason.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

5. During presentations, one website I totally liked was created by _____________________________.

I liked their website because ____________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________